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MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1907.

If all your friends are talking about books which you cannot understand or get enrichment from, frankly own your incapacity, and read such books as you can understand.—George S. Merriam.

**VALUE OF REFERENCE LIBRARIES.**

In another column will be found a communication from Dr. H. R. Melville, State Librarian, in reply to an editorial article in The Times-Dispatch on the value of a reference library to law-makers. He points out that the State Library has already been doing considerable work along the line indicated in our article, and is ready to do more. No doubt, and The Times-Dispatch desires to aid the library in enlarging its operations in that direction. The reference libraries in Wisconsin and Maryland have men who are engaged exclusively in collecting and examining the laws of other States and comparing them with the laws of their own States. They make a special study of municipal regulations, county laws, and of all sociological questions relating to State, county and municipal government.

If the Legislature will supply the means, Dr. Melville will make the reference library in Virginia equal to any in the nation, and it will be of invaluable service to the State, especially to the several counties and cities.

**AFFLICTED NEGRO CHILDREN.**

The General Assembly of 1906 established by enactment "the Virginia State School for Colored Deaf and Blind Children" and appropriated the sum of \$5,000 to carry out the purposes of the act. The Governor appointed a board of visitors, with Mr. John L. Williams, of Richmond, as president, but for some reason, unknown to the board, the clause carrying the appropriation was omitted from the engrossed copy of the bill. Consequently the board has been able to do little more than to organize and inform itself as to the needs of the proposed institution. Investigation shows that there are nearly 200 colored children in the State, who are either deaf or blind, confined chiefly to the counties in the "black belt." Therefore, even if the appropriation of \$5,000 had been received, it would have been utterly inadequate. The board will ask the General Assembly to make an appropriation of at least \$25,000 for the purchase of a farm and the erection of the necessary buildings and equipment. With such an institution the board feels confident that these afflicted children can be so educated as to make them self-supporting. Otherwise they must inevitably become dependents upon public or private bounty. It is inhuman to condemn any child, white or black, to a career of beggary. To make a beggar of every child is to degrade and demoralize it. It is bad enough to be deaf and dumb or blind, but the affliction is made doubly grievous if the victim has no education, no means of earning a livelihood. The common instincts of humanity prompt us to succor and relieve these little unfortunates of the colored race, and what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. The Legislature should by all means adopt the recommendations of the board.

**THE FAVORITE NOVELS OF LIBRARY READERS.**

Some days ago we printed in these columns a list of "best-selling" novels which tended to show that the taste of the so-called reading public was not so hopelessly depraved as some superficial critics would have us believe. Now comes further testimony in the same direction, in the shape of a list of novels most called for at the country's libraries during the past six years. The president of the American Library Association gives out the titles as follows, in the order of their popularity: "Les Misérables," "Count of Monte Cristo," "Three Musketeers," "David Copperfield," "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," "Tom Sawyer," "Vanity Fair," "Henry Esmond," "Last Days of Pompeii," "Diana of the Crossways," "Deal of Richard Feverel," "Romola," "Mill on the Floss," "Richard Carvel," "The Crisis," "When Knighthood Was in Flower," "Ivanhoe," "Kenilworth," "Lorna Doone" and "Jane Eyre." There are surprises in this list, of course, as there must be in all lists of this kind. Not every one, perhaps, would have picked "Les Misérables" as the novel most in demand among American library readers. The continued vitality of "Sherlock Holmes" is a little unexpected, admirable and engaging as that gentleman is. It is curious that

Dickens makes so little showing. He is represented only once in this list of twenty, while Meredith, Thackeray, Dumas, Scott and George Eliot are each represented twice. Meredith's prominence is particularly hard to understand in view of the general belief that he is for the elect only. Who would have suspected that "Diana of the Crossways" is more called for at the libraries than any book of Dickens', except David Copperfield? Jane Austen might well have appeared in a list which held "Jane Eyre" not to mention "Lorna Doone" and "The Last Days of Pompeii," but her absence will hardly surprise anyone. There is no disappointment in finding "Tom Sawyer" here, and not much in finding two of Mr. Churchill's. Two or three of the "new" books were inevitable, and Mr. Churchill's have been "out," we believe, during all the period covered by this list, and in steady demand. The list strikes bottom, no doubt, in "When Knighthood Was in Flower." But most, or all of these newer books, will disappear in a later period, we are told, and their places be taken by others of the old favorites.

Some magazine writer could get an interesting article out of an attempt to classify the people who "take out" books from libraries. That they are more or less sharply distinguished from the people who buy them at the book-seller's, appears to be plain. At any rate both classes together make up our "reading public," and the more we hear of this public the more we are assured that in the long run they choose their books with an intelligence and discrimination not always attributed to them.

**LOCAL OPTION.**

In reply to some remarks of ours on compulsory education, with local option, the Emporia Messenger says: "Why have the local option feature? It is to be expected that parents who refuse to send their children to school will vote for a measure compelling them to do so? If compulsory education is for the good of the State and is not a burden, then let the whole State adopt it, and not simply those counties which are already enlightened enough to accept it. Yet with the question of the races confronting us, the situation becomes complex and the measure should be carefully considered before it is adopted."

Our contemporary has answered its own question. In some sections of the State there are serious obstacles in the way of compulsory attendance. In others the situation is different, and we are informed that several of the counties are ready and anxious for the regulation. Local option would meet both conditions.

A London writer, who claims to be an authority on smoking, says that a person who smokes a cigar with the label-band on is always a vulgarian; a person who displays two inches of ash adhering to a cigar is generally ostentatious; a person who selects a cigar because it is sprinkled with light spots is an ignoramus who credits any popular report; and a person who chews up the end of a cigar or an cigarette is more often than not of an irascible or peevish nature.

Now, what sort of a smoker are you? "What has become of John Temple Graves?" demand many excited contemporaries. They are hereby bidden to be of good cheer. John Temple is doing well as minority leader of the submerged tenth, and is reported to be appearing at the cashier's window regularly every pay-day.

Now the Washington Herald suggests Edward Payson Weston as a walking delegate to the Republican national convention. However, this would be practically a waste of time, inasmuch as all the other prominent Republicans are going as running delegates.

Meantime, the gallant sweet-potatoes of Old Virginia, each with a guaranteed measurement of seventeen inches and up, are daily winning thousands of new admirers on the leading gastronomic circuits of the world.

The Bristol Herald-Courier's list-type creates a paragraph to the "No-folk Virginian-Pilot." This seems to be the other rhyme to "violet" which the presshards have been searching for these five decades.

The Nashville American is hereby appointed secretary of Paragraphers' Union, Local No. 2, and is instructed henceforward to scan the Tennessee field with a merciless eye.

Fewer men in Royal Richmond are endeavoring to settle their wives' Christmas budgets at 17 cents on the dollar than in one residential block of any other city in the world.

Our exchange editor announces, in full faith by the by-laws of the Paragraphers' Union, that he is prepared to give the Congressional Record the usual welcome.

One objection to holding the Democratic national convention in Richmond is that it would bring a lot of Texas delegates here who would want to settle down and stay.

It is to be hoped that any new 25,000 word message that may be forthcoming at this time will not be met with the unqualified approval of the proofreaders.

A hasty poll of the assembling Congress indicates that the prohibitionists will have a small but firm majority over the prune-lovers.

The United States is a big place, but at this rate it can hardly offer standing-room to all our 1907 "plans" for currency reform.

Secretary Taft is now in position to appreciate the rather painful feelings of a boom town during the year after the boom.

No wonder "the situation" is skittish. With so many people sitting on the sidelines and making ineffectual remarks.

In solid old Richmond gold-pieces with the motto continue to mingle freely with crisp currency with the sock off.

Why should this talk about "making" Washington a dry town emerge at just the moment when Congress reconvenes?

**Borrowed Jingles.**

**THE PHONE BELL.**  
She ran to cook his pancakes,  
And the phone bell rang.  
She rushed to start the coffee,  
And the phone bell rang.  
Breakfast he went without,  
"Good-bye," they had to shout it,  
She would have about it.  
But the phone bell rang.  
She tried to dress the children,  
And the phone bell rang.  
She went to wash the dishes,  
And the phone bell rang.  
The dinner needed dusting,  
The shading-dish was rusting,  
And the silverware disgusting,  
But the phone bell rang.  
The grocer stopped for orders,  
And the phone bell rang.  
A neighbor came to visit,  
And the phone bell rang.  
She thought by being hasty  
The house would be a little tastier,  
Her hands with dough were party,  
And the phone bell rang.

All day her housework waited  
While the phone bell rang.  
No time for rest or labor,  
When the phone bell rang.  
At last he came to fold her  
In his arms, "Poor girl!" he told her  
For a second he consoled her,  
And the phone bell rang.

—Newark Evening News.

**MERELY JOKING.**

**Her Fault.**  
Ladies—Mary, I can't have my kitchen crowded with your company all the time. Mary—Sure and it's you and your own mumm. Yes should have engaged a plainer person than myself.—St. Louis Times.

**Proof.**  
"What do you think of Blinks as a poet?"  
"He is a positive genius."  
"His work doesn't show it."  
"Maybe not, but I happen to know that his wife's milliner has an awful time collecting a bill from him."—Nashville American.

**A Necessity.**  
The drama is going to the dogs. Manager—Sure. What else is there to try it on?—Baltimore American.

**A Fresh Egg.**  
The cold storage egg had emerged after three years of seclusion.  
"I'm as good as you are," it remarked to the egg newly laid.  
"You're certainly fresh enough," responded the latter, with a smile that threatened the integrity of its shell.—Philadelphia Ledger.

**A Reserve.**  
"Why in the world are you carrying two umbrellas?" somebody asked the forgetful man, and he looked amazed at the question.  
"I should think you'd guess that easily, knowing me so well," he said. "I'm carrying two so that if I forget to take one, I shall have the other."—Youth's Companion.

**State Reference Library.**

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: "State Librarian," in an editorial headed "State Reference Library," has appeared in The Times-Dispatch this morning, and very properly emphasizes the great benefit derived by legislators in our comparative States from the work of the State Library or other institutions looking after their legislative work. He is sufficient to show the plan and scope, and it ought to be sufficient to show the desirability and importance of having such a library attached to the State Library of Virginia.

The purpose of the present communication is to prove that those in charge of the Virginia State Library have for some time realized "the desirability and importance of having such an adjunct," and that the library has been doing a great deal toward aiding the members of our General Assembly in the performance of their duties. It is a fact that the Legislature has been doing a great deal of legislative work, and that the State Library has been doing a great deal of legislative work.

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**SOCIAL and PERSONAL**

**THE Thanksgiving ball given in the Convention Hall, Jamestown Exposition grounds, under the auspices of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity in honor of the visiting students from the University of Virginia and the A. and M. College of North Carolina was one of the most pleasant social events of the week.**

There were also in attendance the football teams of Richmond College and William and Mary College and members of the Norfolk Senior German Club, and music for the occasion was furnished by Ellery's Band of sixty pieces.

The ball was opened promptly at 9 o'clock with a grand march and ended shortly after midnight, cars being at the entrance to the Convention Hall to bring the participants to their homes in Norfolk.

It was largely attended, and proved one of the distinct social features of the entire exposition, and will be long remembered by those who were able to attend.

The patronesses were: Miss Virginia Gatzwiler, Mrs. Floyd Hughes, Mrs. Charles B. Ryan, Mrs. Randolph Hicks, Mrs. Julia P. Lynch, Mrs. Campbell Grover, Mrs. Howard Shield, Mrs. St. George Tucker, Mrs. J. Taylor Elyson, Mrs. P. F. Harrington, Mrs. Alvah H. Child, Mrs. James Y. Leigh, Mrs. Barton Myers, Mrs. Holt Page, Mrs. A. Neugebauer, and Mrs. E. Tattersson, of Norfolk; Mrs. R. M. Berry, Mrs. Yates McAlpine Wilson, Mrs. L. T. W. Waller, Mrs. J. G. Edwards, of Portsmouth; Mrs. J. H. Walbridge, of St. Johns; Mrs. Emma L. Brown, of Plainfield, N. J.; Mrs. Mabel Wolcott Brown, of Boston.

Those who attended from Richmond were: Miss Amy Dunn, with Mr. Shaffer; Miss Joanne Knox, with Mr. R. L. Nottingham; Miss Lott, with Mr. Hubert Mann; Miss Eva Chatain, with Captain Edward M. Talbot, Twelfth Cavalry; U. S. A.; Miss Inez Chatain, with Captain N. H. A. U. S. A.

**Debutante Card Party.**

One of the prettiest entertainments that will mark the winter season will be a card party to be given on December 10th, at 8:30 o'clock, by Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Chambers, of No. 201 West Main Street, in honor of their daughter, Miss Myra Chambers. Her guests will include her friends, the debutantes of this season, and a number of the young society men of the city.

**Price-Keys.**

Announcement is made of the marriage in Philadelphia on Saturday of Miss Frances Keyse, of New York City, to Mr. John Belvin Price, son of the late H. S. Price, of Richmond, and Mrs. Price will be at home to friends after December 10th at No. 1621 West Grace Street, this city.

**Hostesses of the Afternoon.**

Ladies invited to serve as hostesses at the Woman's Club this afternoon are Mrs. Basil D. Spalding, Mrs. Edmund Waddill, Mrs. Arthur M. Cannon, Mrs. Stewart M. Woodward and Mrs. Llewellyn McVeigh.

**Leiss-Quarles.**

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Quarles, of No. 2509 East Clay Street, have issued invitations for the marriage of their daughter, Emma Grayson, to Mr. Emil A. Leiss, the ceremony to take place in Christ Episcopal Church, December 11th, at 7 P. M.

**Coming Wedding.**

Dr. and Mrs. Morris Barrett announce the coming wedding of their daughter, Lillian H. Hughes, to Mr. William C. Fitch, of Washington, D. C., the ceremony to be performed at the home of the bride's parents, in Goochland county, on December 21th.

**Clements-Nuckols.**

Shiloh Methodist Church, near Beaver Dam Mills, was the scene of a beautiful marriage on Wednesday at 5:30 P. M., when Miss Ruby May, daughter of Mr. F. C. Nuckols, became the bride of Mr. Harry Clements, son of the late Supervisor C. D. Clements, of Beaver Dam Mills.

The bride, who entered the church with her father, wore a handsome gown of white silk, trimmed with Irish point lace. Her veil was caught with strange blossoms, and she carried white chrysanthemums.

Miss Mabel Nuckols, the bride's sister, was her maid of honor, crowned in white organdie and having a bouquet of maidenhead ferns. Mr. Vivian Clements was best man, and the ushers were Messrs. Charles and John Elliott, of Beaver Dam; Roy McChesney, of Montpelier, and Kenneth Lowry, of Emmetts, Va.

The church was decorated in green and white. The Rev. Mr. Sparrow officiated. The wedding march was "The Swan Song," and the bride and groom were escorted by Mr. Evelyn Brown, of Waldoke, Va.

**Silver Wedding.**

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Pasadag celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage on Wednesday evening at their residence, No. 715 Dickinson Avenue, near Oakwood Cemetery. The parlors and dining-room were tastefully decorated with chrysanthemums.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brauer, Mr. and Mrs. R. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. William Rupp, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. W. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Pace.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Unger, Mrs. W. T. Johnson, Mrs. W. F. Dillard, Mrs. Louis Seal, Mrs. William Hope, Mrs. W. M. Lybarger, Mrs. Annie Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Pasadag, Misses Amanda Pasadag, Eva Hope, Mary Johnson, May Brittle, Ida Dillard, Elma Johnson, Annie Pierce, Lizzie Zank, Madeline Unger, Lizzie Pace, Messrs. Charles Teskie, Chester Johnson, Geo. Smith, John Rowe, L. Smith, H. Arndt, A. Arndt, Herman Zank, R. Buchanan, George Moran, G. W. Carr, Harry Galli, John Pasadag, Messrs. Edwin Rupp, Arthur Rupp, Charles Stewart Unger, Preston Unger and Raymond Pasadag.

**Christmas Sale.**

The ladies of All Saints' Episcopal Church will have a Christmas sale, beginning at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning and continuing through the day, at All Saints' parish house. Fancy and useful articles and Christmas dainties will be offered.

**For the Home for Incubables.**

Miss Plitz, assisted by her guests, will give a dinner on Wednesday next, from 4 to 11 P. M., for the benefit of the Home for Incubables.

The entire day will be thrown open. There will be rooms for cards, and music and a smoking-room for gentlemen.

The dinner will be served on the European plan, at restaurant prices. The menu will include old Virginia ham, quail on toast, oysters à la pickles, hot rolls, waffles, beaten biscuit, mince pie, home-made cake and cream, coffee, cocoa and tea. The public are cordially invited.

Under the auspices of Miss Mary Thomas' Auxiliary to the Home for Incubables, on Friday evening next at the Academy of Music, the Princess Trilke, the trained horse that since last April has been delighting every visitor to the Jamestown Exposition, will give a performance here.

Trilke's name and fame have gone so far abroad that beyond the announcement of her coming, she needs no commendation to the public, all classes alike, big people and little people, being equally interested in this wonderful animal.

So crowded and so enthusiastic a house doubtless awaits her coming. All purchasing tickets to the Academy will have the pleasure of realizing that they not only will be repaid by the enjoyment they will receive, but that they are contributing to a most worthy cause.

**St. Hilda's Guild Sale.**

St. Hilda's Guild, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will have its annual Christmas sale on Tuesday, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M., and from 8 to 10 P. M., in the home of Mrs. George B. Hutchings, No. 22 North Laurel Street.

Beautiful articles of all kinds, including hand-painted dolls and fancy novelties in new and original designs, will be displayed at the sale. The ladies of the guild will be most pleased to have their friends and the public call.

**Auxiliary Meeting.**

The regular meeting of the Branch R. Allen Auxiliary of the Virginia Home for Incubables will be held on Tuesday at 11 A. M., in Murphy's Hotel.

**Central Committee Meeting.**

The central committee of the A. P. V. A. will meet Tuesday at noon in the rooms of the Virginia Historical Society.

**Rummage Sale.**

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Virginia Home for Incubables and Power Company Y. M. C. A. will hold a rummage sale at No. 1909 East Main Street for the week beginning to-morrow.

Friends who wish to contribute articles will kindly send them between the hours of 10 and 5. On account of the sale, the regular monthly meeting of the Reservoir will be postponed until the second Thursday in December at 5:30 o'clock, at which time there will be a general conference on "Good Cooking."

**Annual Meeting.**

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday next at 11 A. M. in the Confederate Museum.

Regents and vice-regents are requested to bring one or more good recipes, especially for the lunch basket.

**Personal Mention.**

Miss Mary Overton Hawe has been paying a visit of some weeks to her aunt, Mrs. D. C. Ballard, of Washington, D. C. She is now leaving for Baltimore, where she will attend the marriage of a school friend.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robertson, of Washington, D. C., who spent last winter in Richmond, will sail on the steamer Minnehaha for New York City on Wednesday.

Miss Sallie Dupree, of North Carolina, is visiting Mrs. Willis Robert Johnson, No. 100 1/2 West Clay Street.

Captain Lewis Merriam, United States Army, of Washington, D. C., who has been the guest in Richmond of Captain William Graeme Harvey, has returned to Washington.

Miss Kitty Lancaster, who has been visiting her brother in New York for the past month, will be at home on December 3rd.

Miss Miriam E. Bowman left last week to visit Miss Dora Lang, of New York City, N. Y.

**TO WED GERMAN BARON**



MISS EMILY D. HARNEY. Miss Harney will marry Baron von Hille, who was a Lieutenant in the Second Guard, First Artillery Regiment of the Kaiser's army. He is now living in his country.

**HILLRISE**

By W. B. MAXWELL,  
Author of "The Ragged Messenger," "The Guarded Flame," Etc.  
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**Chapter X—Continued.**

"Stop—please? Has my son been foolish enough to propose to her?"  
"Yes, it was Sir John."  
"What were you talking about all day?"  
"You?"  
"Father—you didn't tell him? Say you didn't tell him!"  
"I did my best. I asked for his son's hand in marriage, and he refused."  
"Father! How could you? Oh, it was cruel—it was wicked of you to betray me!"  
"I didn't betray you. Don't blame me!"  
"I think I shall die of shame. Oh, father! don't you understand what you've done? All the world will laugh at me. If they knew, there's not a girl in the place but would point at me and mock at me. And what will Mr. Jack think of me when he hears?"  
"He won't hear—and I kept you out of it in that sense. I asked for myself."  
"But Sir John will tell him—and then he'll guess."  
"No, he won't. Sir John promised not to tell him. Sir John will keep his word."  
CHAPTER XI.  
Lizzie Crunden, to her bed, turned her face to the wall, and wished that the bed had been her grave. At least, she believed that she wished it. She whispered the words to herself: "I wish I was dead. I wish I was dead." She was just before her eyes, in reach of her hand, and with her finger she traced the outlines of bouquets and ribbons that repeated themselves again and again on the wall-paper